Washington State Patrol
Media Release
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Troopers to ride in big rigs to witness violators

WSP ANNOUNCES EMPHASIS ON CAR-TRUCK SAFETY TO REDUCE COLLISIONS AND INCREASE MOBILITY

Who: The Washington State Patrol, the Washington Trucking Association, and Boeing.

When: July 24, 2003, 10 a.m.

Where: Federal Way Weigh Station off of I-5 going north

What: To coincide with the summer high travel season, a brief press conference will be held to introduce **Step Up and Ride** (Reduce Injuries Through Driver's Education), a new education and enforcement emphasis sponsored by the WSP, Boeing, and the Washington Trucking Association.

On highways throughout Western Washington, Seattle south to Vancouver, troopers will be riding in big rigs to witness first-hand those who make inappropriate lane changes, drive too close, and fail to yield the right of way, all of which were top causes of car-truck accidents last year. These accidents not only caused injury and death, but halted the mobility of thousands of people trying to get to their destinations throughout Washington. Troopers will witness violations and then call ahead to other troopers who will be waiting on the roadways to stop violators and provide a warning or a ticket. The goal: reduce injuries and death and enhance mobility.

Why: Last year, **76%** of all fatality accidents where passenger cars and trucks were involved were caused by the passenger vehicle. According to WSP Chief Ronal W. Serpas, these accidents are often fatal and usually shut freeways down for hours, costing the state thousands of dollars in lost revenue.

What Else: Trucking partners will be on hand to provide photographers and reporters an opportunity to ride in a semi-truck and witness how the program works, witness violators, and interview key players in this project.

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